

1807

October Fifteenth

1907

One Hundredth Anniversary

of the

North Congregational  
Church

in

New Bedford, Mass.

Celebrated October 13th, 14th and 15th

1807

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PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING

Erected 1836, chapel added 1857

Program  
of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the  
North Congregational Church  
in New Bedford, Mass.  
Held October 13th, 14th and 15th, 1907

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Sunday, October 13th

9 A. M. CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The plates used are made from the bullion obtained by melting the communion goblets given to the church by Rev. Sylvester Holmes and eleven prominent members of the church.

The gift of Mr. Holmes was made in 1822, and the inscription reads as follows, "A token of affection from Sylvester Holmes to the church under his pastoral care, 1822." The others were inscribed, "Presented to the North Congregational church in 1837 by," and were the gifts of Mrs. David Briggs, Mrs. Rebekah Nickerson, Mrs. John A. Parker, Mrs. Haydon Coggeshall, Miss Elizabeth Crocker, Mrs. Eli Haskell, Mrs. Joshua Barker, Mrs. A. H. Seabury, Mrs. Ebenezer Hathaway, Mrs. Henry P. Willis, Mrs. William Blackmer.





REV. FRANK E. RAMSDELL

Present Pastor, Installed Dec 29, 1903

## Sunday (Continued)

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### 10 A. M. HISTORICAL SERVICE

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Special music by the church choir, assisted by Louis W. Walker, of Taunton, tenor soloist, and Frank Whittaker, violinist.

Historical sermon by the pastor of the church, Rev. Frank Ellsworth Ramsdell.

Tribute to the members of the church who have died since the 75th anniversary in 1882. The roll will be read by the pastor, and as each name is read a flower will be dropped into the basket by the two youngest members of the church, Evelyn Hersey and Ada Squires.

Social greetings and renewal of old acquaintance.

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### 3 P. M. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

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Organ Voluntary.

Anthem, Quartet

Prayer.

Address to the boys and girls, Mrs. Florence S. Ware of Worcester.

Violin Solo. Frank Whittaker

Hymn, Congregation

Historical Sketch of the Sunday School, written by Ezra Holmes  
and read by Miss Marion Harrington.

Violin Solo. Mr. Whittaker

Paper—"The work of the Young People for the past twenty-five  
years," Miss Mary E. L. Theaker

Selection. Quartet

Paper—"Reminiscences of Long Ago," Miss Clarissa Staples

Hymn, Congregation

Postlude.



REV. JOHN A. MACCOLL

Pastor from January 16, 1890 to August 31, 1903



## Sunday (Continued)

### 7 P. M. VESPER SERVICE

Organ Voluntary.

Lord's Prayer.

Quartet

Responsive Reading, led by the pastor, Rev. Frank E. Ramsdell.

Anthem,

Dennison Quartet

Ten Commandments.

Responses by Quartet

Duet,

Mrs. Dudgeon and Mr. Bassett

Scripture Reading, 1st Cor. 13; 1-13.

Anthem, .

Dennison Quartet

Beatitudes, with responses.

Anthem,

Angelus Quartet

Hymn—"O God of Bethel."

Prayer, with response.

Selection,

Mr. Bassett

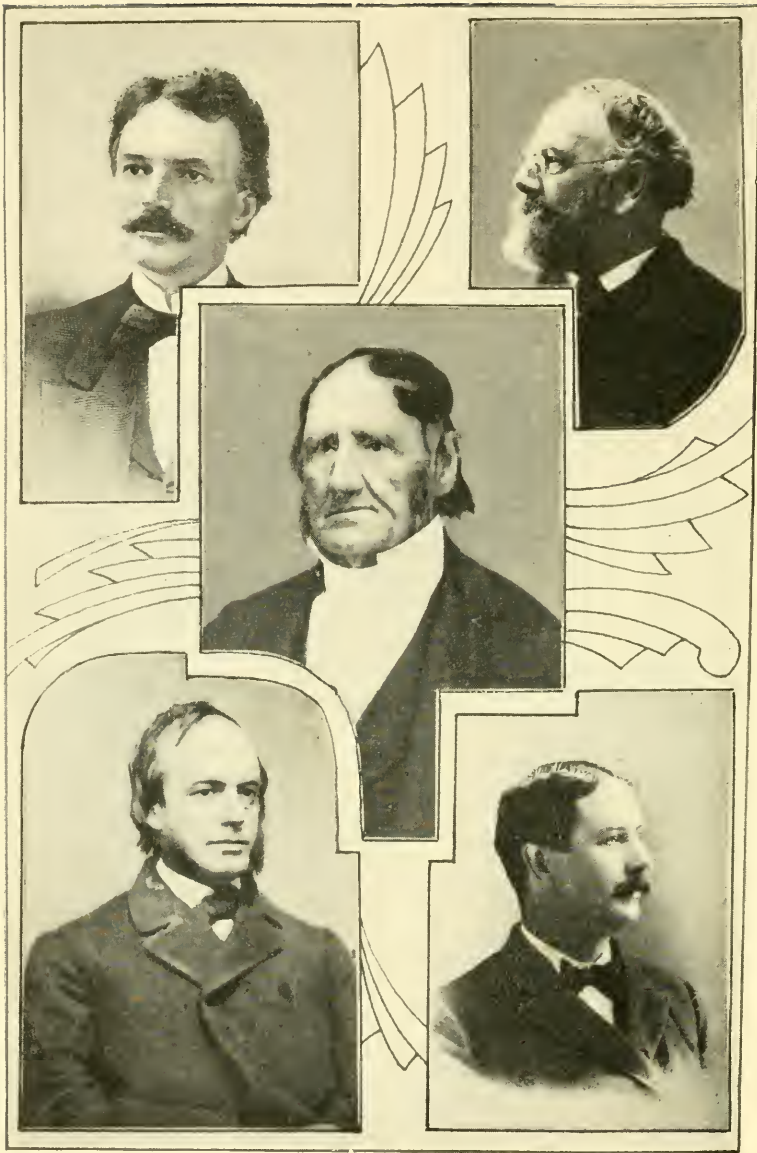
Address.

Rev. John A. MacColl of Providence

Anthem,

Double Quartet

Benediction followed by Nunc Dimittis.



#### FIVE OF THE FORMER PASTORS

REV. AZARIAH ELDRIDGE

September 15 1847 to April 22, 1856

REV. ALONZO H. QUINT

July 21, 1864 to June 10, 1875

REV. SYLVESTER HOLMES

July 30, 1811 to March 15, 1843; (Feb. 21, 1839, granted five years' leave of absence)

REV. HENRY W. PARKER

August 8, 1856, to July 27, 1863

REV. ALBERT H. HEATH

October 19, 1876 to March 9, 1889

REV. THOMAS SMITH served from July 24, 1839 to Aug. 31, 1842

REV. ROBERT S. HITCHCOCK served from July 19, 1843 to Dec. 9, 1845

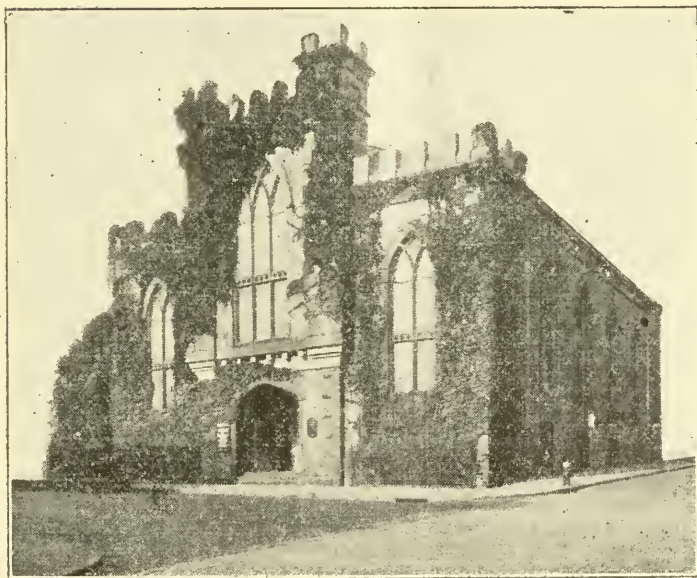
*"Other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."*  
JOHN 4:38

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The  
North Congregational  
Church

1807 - 1932

PURCHASE AND ELM STREETS  
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.



The  
One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary  
OCTOBER 9-16, 1932.

*"Other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."*

JOHN 4:38

## A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

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One hundred and twenty-five years have come and gone since the North Congregational Church had its beginning in the council assembled in the precinct meeting house October 15, 1807. Almost one hundred years have passed over the roof of the present building. The leadership of nine beloved spiritual leaders has already passed into its history. With an earnest, serious, truth-seeking people it has maintained its life throughout these years close to the heart of a growing city.

The Church was the outgrowth of a demand for a place of worship in this then growing section of the town. It was formed from members of the First Church and by those who had no Church, forty in all. The Second Church had already been organized in Fairhaven.

Soon after the organization of the Third Church, disturbances crept in over the theological controversy waged so strongly at the beginning of the 19th century. This resulted in the majority of the members of the Church withdrawing to another place of worship and eventually becoming an independent group. This group held the records and became known soon after as the North Congregational Church. The property, by legal right, was held by the society. The minority group of the Church and the society is perpetuated by the First Congregational Society (Unitarian).

In spite of the discouraging experiences of early years, the Church has moved steadily forward. Its first meeting place was the North Purchase Street School House, a school house on Third and Walnut, and a hall at Second and Mill Streets. The first building was erected at Second and Elm Streets. About 1816 another building was erected on a site which has proved to be permanent, Purchase and Elm Streets. Because of the growth of the Church and the constant need for enlargement, this building was moved back and the present stone structure erected in 1836.

The spiritual zeal of each generation has left its trace on the place of worship. In 1857 the chapel was erected. Improvements were made in the auditorium in 1881 and again in 1888. By the generous gift of one of the members in 1905 the Church was refitted and new pews were installed. With the growth of the city and the widening of Purchase Street the tower was removed, the chapel and vestry floors leveled and other alterations made in 1916.

Three missions grew out from the leadership of this Church which have since become strong: The City Mission, the Immanuel Baptist Church, and the present St. Paul's Methodist. From time to time trust funds have been left to the Church by those who have had faith in its future.

The magnitude of the labors of this Church cannot be measured by the material resources, great as they are. The real worth is to be found in the spiritual foundations laid in the homes, the schools and the community life.

It is a notable fact that in the 125 years' existence of this church that there have been but ten regular pastors, the Rev. Sylvester Holmes, active pastor for 28 years; the Rev. Thomas Smith; the Rev. Robert H. Hitchcock; the Rev. Azariah Eldridge; the Rev. Henry W. Parker, the Rev. Alonzo H. Quint, D. D.; the Rev. Albert H. Heath; the Rev. John A. MacColl, the only living ex-pastor; the Rev. Frank E. Ramsdell, who preached and ministered here for nearly 26 years; and the present minister, the Rev. William B. Mathews.

*"Arise, let us be going."*—JESUS.

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**Sunday Morning, October 9th, 1932**

**A SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

at 11:00 o'clock

**The Order of Worship**

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<b>Organ Prelude</b>	Prelude to Act III (from Kunibild)	Kistler
<b>Processional Hymn</b>	No. 1, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"	
<b>Choral Call to Worship</b>		
<b>The Doxology</b>		
<b>Invocation and Lord's Prayer</b>		
*		
<b>Anthem</b>	Rejoice in the Lord	Parker
*		
<b>Responsive Reading</b>	Selection 1	
<b>The Gloria Patri</b>		
*		
<b>Prayer of Humility</b>	Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness. According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions; And my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. (Ps. 51)	
<b>A Prayer Hymn</b>	No. 350, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"	
<b>Silent Prayer</b>		
<b>Prayer for the People</b>		
<b>Choral Response</b>	Keep Me Savior Near Thy Side	Hanscom
*		
<b>Offertory</b>	Andante Religioso (from Sonata IV)	Mendelssohn
<b>Anthem</b>	Sweet Is Thy Mercy	Barby
<b>The Scripture Lesson</b>	No. 556, "The Church's One Foundation"	
<b>Hymn</b>	A Spiritual Interpretation of Our Past	
<b>Sermon</b>	Mr. Mathews	
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	No. 415, "How Firm a Foundation"	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Choral Response</b>		
<b>Organ Postlude</b>	Offertoire in F	Wely

\*Indicates when late comers will be seated.





*"Lest We Forget."*

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**Thursday, October 13th, 1932**

**ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

5:00 - 6:00 P. M. Informal Reception in the Chapel.

6:00 P. M. The Banquet in the Vestry.

Toastmaster: Moderator Wilfred H. Chapin

**PROGRAM**

Songs and Hymns of the Church.

Greetings to Members and Guests.

"Toasts of Appreciation":

"To our Spiritual Leaders."

Mr. Allen P. Keith

"To the Women who have Mothered the Church." Mrs. Willis E. Lougee

"To the Laymen whose Efforts have been Blessed." Mr. Clinton I. Walker

"To the North Church from Sister Churches." Rev. C. Donald Plomer

Address, "The Church in an Age of Confusion." Rev. Clarence E. Hellens

"Message" from the Rev. John A. MacColl, only living ex-pastor.

Read by Mrs. Dexter B. Goodwin

"Greetings" from Absent Friends.

Read by Miss Charlotte B. Chase and Mr. William R. Chase

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

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*"The Challenge of Past Years."*

**Friday Evening, October 14th, 1932**

**HISTORICAL NIGHT**

at 7:30 o'clock

**HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN READINGS AND DRAMATIZATION**

Readers: Mr. John Northcott, Mr. Fredrick C. Brown, Miss Sarah Isherwood,  
Mrs. Charles E. Benton, Mr. Henry Whalley, Miss Annie S. Ray.

Dramatization of the Forming of the Church:

Rev. Isaiah Weston, Mr. William R. Chase; Joseph Bates, Mr. Clinton I. Walker; Rev. Oliver Cobb, Mr. Clifton H. Cornish; Jesse Haskell, Mr. Carson Axtell; Cephas Cushman, Mr. Charles E. Benton.

Meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Committee:

Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Wilfred H. Chapin; Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Fredrick C. Brown; Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Walter S. Dillingham; Mrs. Sawyer, Miss Theresa Thacker; Miss Staples, Miss Sarah N. Ruggles.

Songs by the Church Quartette:

Mrs. Earle C. Miller, Mrs. Alice Healy Bolton, Mr. Philip D. Drew, Mr. Louis W. Macy. Mr. John W. Ramsbottom, organist and director.

The historical sketch has been prepared by Mr. J. William Webber, Miss Mary A. Chase, and Miss Madeline E. Almy.

*"One soweth, and another reapeth."*—JESUS.

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**Sunday Morning, October 16th**

**THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF THE CHURCH**

at 11:00 o'clock

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**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

†Organ Prelude	a. Meditation	Lang
Processional Hymn	b. Melody in C	Hanforth
Choral Call to Worship	No. 9, "Ancient of Days"	
The Doxology		
Invocation and Lord's Prayer		
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Anthem	I Will Magnify Thee, O God	Shackley
*		
Responsive Reading	Selection 16, The Grace of God	
The Gloria Patri		
Prayer of Humility	Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness. According to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions; And my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. (Ps. 51)	
A Prayer Hymn	No. 360, "O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"	
Silent Prayer		
Prayer for the People		
Choral Response	O That I Had Wings	Hanscom
*		
Offertory	Supplication	Frysinger
Anthem	He Sendeth the Springs	Wareing
The Scripture Lesson		
Hymn	No. 479, "Faith of Our Fathers"	
Sermon	The Anniversary Sermon Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, New York	
Closing Hymn	No. 547, "The Church that to our Fathers"	
The Closing Prayer		
Choral Response		
Organ Postlude	Phantasie (from Sonata in D flat)	Rheinberger

†The Organ Prelude will begin at 10:45 A. M.

\*Indicates when late comers will be seated.

*"Rejoice with them who do rejoice."*

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**Sunday Afternoon and Evening, October 16th, 1932**

**A PILGRIMAGE**

at 3:00 P. M.

Memorial Service at the graves of the Rev. Sylvester Holmes and the Rev. Frank E. Ramsdell. (If stormy the service will be held in Chapel.)

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**AN INFORMAL RECEPTION**

at 4:00 P. M.

Tea served by the ladies.

Reminiscence.

Young People's Fellowship Supper at 6:00 o'clock. All cordially invited.  
(Kindly make reservations. Tickets 25 cents.)

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**AN ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY SERVICE**

at 7:30 P. M.

William B. Mathews, Minister, Presiding

<b>Organ Prelude</b>	a. Dawn	Jenkins
	b. Night	Jenkins
<b>Hymn</b>	No. 578, "Hark, Hark, My Soul"	
<b>Responsive Reading</b>	Selection 3, Evening Prayer	
<b>Prayer</b>		
<b>Choral Response</b>	Incline Thine Ear	Hanscom
<b>Offertory</b>	Evensong	Johnston
<b>Anthem</b>	Magnificat in C	Buck
<b>Hymn</b>	No. 555, "Glorious Things Are Spoken"	
<b>Greetings</b>	From the 1st Congregational Society (Unitarian) Rev. E. Stanton Hodgkin	
	From the New Bedford Churches Rev. Leonard C. Harris	
<b>Anthem</b>	O For a Closer Walk with God	Foster
<b>Greetings</b>	From the Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society President Frederick H. Page	
<b>Hymn</b>	No. 250, "Crown Him with Many Crowns"	
<b>Benediction</b>		
<b>Organ Postlude</b>	Toccato in G	Dubois

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

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## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

A worthy past is a challenge to the present for the increasing worth in the future.

A great Church in the heart of a growing city meeting the needs of hundreds in and out of its parish. Reaching out into the avenues of our community life with a program of activities interesting and appealing to both young and old. The North Congregational Church, with leaders of vision, zealous workers and a consecrated membership, has already and will continue to write its name in the history of accomplishments.

## OUR AIMS

**Spiritual and Evangelistic**—Above all, upon these depends our success. Our Church known increasingly as a spiritual and a progressive Church. A Church setting forth the principles and spirit of Jesus as the way out of the perplexities of personal problems and the problems of lawlessness, war, industrial strife and morality.

**Educational**—A Church School, second to none, consecrated in the task of leading young people into the richest meaning of life. A well-defined program of religious education earnestly applying the wisest methods of psychology and pedagogy to the task of leading youth into Jesus' way of life.

**Church Membership**—A serious and concerted effort through personal evangelism to gain at least an increase of ten per cent yearly.

**Organization**—A Church teaming with worthy, vital and wide-awake activities. Every woman of the Church a member of the Woman's Guild. Every man of the Church a member of the Brotherhood. Every young person active in the department for youth.

**Church Coöperation**—A Church coöperating with and touching every worthy and forward-looking community enterprise.

**Welfare**—A welfare department adequate to aid the needy of the parish in time of economic stress.

**World Service and Benevolences**—An awareness of an interdependent world and our responsibility in the spread of the gospel of Jesus. A time when we shall give more to others than for ourselves.

**Building and Equipment**—A beautiful annex over a part or all of the present building fitted to serve and fill a great need in the heart of the city, giving facilities for a Church School with up-to-date equipment for the proper housing and directing of a worthy school and program appealing to youth.

**Finance**—The Current expenses paid in full each year. A Church free from debt by 1936.

**Endowment**—Our present endowment substantially increased to provide for increased world service, welfare and adequate program of activities of youth.



**Monday, October 14th**

*3 P. M. FELLOWSHIP MEETING*

Organ Prelude.

Singing by Congregation, Old Hundred.

Prayer,

Rev. Matthew C. Julien

Selection,

Angelus Quartet

Three-minute Address of Welcome,

Rev. Frank E. Ramsdell

Response,

Rev. Clarence M. Gallup, First Baptist Church

Selection,

Angelus Quartet

Scripture Reading,

Rev. John J. Phelan of Immanuel Baptist Church

Prayer,

Rev. James McAllister of First Christian Church

Hymn—Three verses of How Firm a Foundation.

Read by William Wade Ryan of the Union Baptist Church

A five-minute talk from other clergymen as follows:

Rev. W. B. Geoghegan, Unitarian; William Thompson, Friends;

Rev. J. I. Bartholomew, Methodist; Rev. E. H. Cleveland, Episcopalian.

Prayer and Benediction,

Rev. T. M. Bateman of the North Primitive Methodist Church

Reception in the chapel to follow; orchestral music and refreshments



CHURCH ERECTED ON PRESENT SITE IN 1816

(Drawn from sketch by Oliver H. Gardner, from remembrance of Stephen P. Sawyer, John A. Ruggles and Edwin Tilton)

## **Sunday** (Continued)

### *7.30 P. M. DENOMINATIONAL MEETING*

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Organ Voluntary.

Anthem—"The Breaking Waves Dashed High," Choir

Reading of Scriptures, Rev. W. C. Martyn, First Congregational Church

Prayer, Rev. M. C. Julien, Trinitarian Church

Response—"My God, My Father," Louis W. Walker

Hymn—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," Congregation

Sermon, Rev. Ruen Thomas, D. D., of Harvard Church, Brookline

Solo—"Guide Us with the Heavenly Light," Louis W. Walker

Doxology.

Benediction by the pastor.



#### COMMUNION GOBLETS

Two of the communion goblets given to the church by prominent members and used for many years  
(See page 3)

**Tuesday, October 15th**

*HOME DAY*

Church open all day. Members of the church will be present to greet all who come.

**3 TO 5 P. M.**

Reception by pastor and wife and the deacons and their wives.

**7 P. M.**

Banquet for church members and supporters. Admission by ticket.

Speaking after the banquet by the following:

Toastmaster, Rev. Frank E. Ramsdell; Rev. Rufus B. Tobey, Rev. Charles F. Hersey, James W. Hervey, Miss Clarissa Staples, Ferdinand S. Read, William C. Parker, David A. Corey, Charles E. Benton.

Reading of letters from absent members,

John Q. Ryder











